

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed June 18, 2003. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Application. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify, more particularly point out, and more distinctly claim inventive concepts previously present in these claims. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims. In order to advance prosecution of this Application, Applicants have responded to each notation by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the acknowledgement that Claim 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Office Action, page 3, paragraph 1). Accordingly, Applicants have amended Claim 16 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 19. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 16 is allowable, and that all pending claims are therefore in condition of allowance.

Section 102 Rejection

The Examiner rejects Claims 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,404,026 to Mariella Jr. et al. (*Mariella*). Applicants have amended Claim 16 to incorporate allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claim 16 and all claims that depend on this claim.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all the pending claims.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this case in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact Keiko Ichiye, the Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6494.

Although Applicants believe no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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